

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-14 ISO-00
COME-00 CEQ-01 INT-05 SIG-02 OIC-02 SMI-01 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01
USIA-15 H-02 /108 R

DRAFTED BY OES/ENP/EN:CHSANDERS:SRS
APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN:DRKING
NOAA:WARON (SUBS)
CEQ:GBERTRAND (INFO)
INTERIOR:JALVAREZ)INFO)
MMC:REISENBUD (INFO)
IO/OIC:HBURGESS (INFO)

-----104400 280038Z /64

P R 272244Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV,IWC

SUBJECT: 29TH MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION
(IWC) CANBERRA, JUNE 20-24, 1977

REFERENCE: (A) STATE 127607 (B) STATE 141186 (C) STATE
141292 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IWC HELD 29TH ANNUAL MEETING IN CANBERRA
JUNE 20-24. OPENING SESSION WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY MESSAGE
SENT BY PRESIDENT CARTER, EXPRESSING HIS PERSONAL COMMITMENT
TO PROTECTION OF WHALES, EMPHASIZING STRONG U.S. SUPPORT
FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAM OF IWC AND OUTLINING U.S. PRIOR-
ITIES IN FIELD. IWC MEETING APPROVED 1977/78 WHALING SEASON
QUOTAS WHICH WILL REDUCE OVERALL ALLOWABLE CATCH BY ABOUT
37 BELOW 76/77 LEVEL. IWC ADOPTED ZERO QUOTA FOR BOWHEAD
WHALE, WHICH HAS BEEN TAKEN TRADITIONALLY BY ALASKAN ESKIMOS.
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IWC APPROVED US-PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS TO PREVENT TRANSFER OF
EQUIPMENT, EXPERTISE AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO, AND IMPORT OF
WHALE PRODUCTS FROM, NON-IWC-MEMBER WHALING NATIONS. IWC
AGREED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR CONFERENCE OF PLENI-
POTENTIARIES TO RENEGOTIATE 1946 WHALING CONVENTION, PRECE-
DED BY PREPARATORY CONFERENCE WHICH DENMARK OFFERED TO HOST
IN SPRING OF 1978. IWC ALSO ADOPTED US-PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT
PROVIDING FOR REVIEW BY SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OR RESEARCH

PERMITS WHICH MEMBER NATIONS PLAN TO ISSUE TO THEIR NA-
TIONALS TO TAKE WHALES. END SUMMARY.

2. CANBERRA MEETING OF IWC WAS ATTENDED BY DELEGATIONS
FROM THE 16 MEMBER COUNTRIES, PLUS OBSERVERS FROM CHILE,
KOREA, SWEDEN, PERU, FAO, UNEP, AND INTERESTED NGO'S. US
DELEGATION WAS LED BY DR. WILLIAM ARON, NOAA, U.S. COMMISSIONER,
AND MR. THOMAS GARRETT, DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE, DEPUTY U.S.
COMMISSIONER. US DELEGATION ALSO INCLUDED CONGRESSMAN PAUL
MCCLOSKEY; CONGRESSIONAL STAFF; AND REPS FROM US AGENCIES
CONCERNED AND LEADING PRIVATE US CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS.

3. IN US OPENING STATEMENT DR. ARON PRESENTED SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO IWC, IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS COMMITMENT TO PROTECTION OF WHALES AND RECALLED HIS PERSONAL ROLE IN WORKING FOR 1972 STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION CALLING FOR 10-YEAR MORATORIUM ON COMMERCIAL WHALING. PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT REAFFIRMED US SUPPORT FOR MORATORIUM, NOTED RECENT PROHIBITION OF WHALING IN US 200-MILE ZONE, AND EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR SCIENTIFICALLY-BASED CONSERVATION PROGRAM OF IWC AND FOR EARLY RENEGOTIATION OF 1946 WHALING CONVENTION TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND IWC REGIME; PRESIDENT ALSO SAID HE HAD RECENTLY ASKED (IN MAY 23 ENVIRONMENTAL MESSAGE TO CONGRESS) USG AGENCIES TO REPORT TO HIM ON ACTION BY COUNTRIES

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WHICH DIMINISH EFFECTIVENESS OF IWC PROGRAM, AND HE STRESSED US HOPE TO SEE ALL WHALING COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS INTERESTED NON-WHALING COUNTRIES AS MEMBERS OF IWC.

4. CONGRESSMAN MCCLOSKEY JOINED IN US OPENING STATEMENT TO EMPHASIZE CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR STRONG US CONSERVATION POLICY ON WHALES. HE ALSO URGED ACTION BY IWC TO STRENGTHEN ITS OBSERVER SCHEME AND TRANSFER RESTRICTIONS, AND TO PROHIBIT IMPORT OF WHALE PRODUCTS FROM NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES.

5. IWC ADOPTED QUOTAS RECOMMENDED BY SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR 1977/78 WHICH WILL REDUCE ALLOWABLE CATCH OF WHALES BY 37 FROM LAST YEAR'S LEVEL. TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH IN COMING YEAR WILL BE 17,839 WHALES, COMPARED WITH 28,050 TOTAL IN 1976/77. 1977/78 QUOTAS ARE AS FOLLOWS (1976/77 QUOTAS IN PARENTHESES):

NORTH ATLANTIC - SPERM MINKE FIN SEI

77/78 685 2555 459 84

76/77 (685) (2483) (455) (132)

NORTH PACIFIC - SPERM (MALE) SPERM (FEMALE)

77/78 0 763 TOTAL 763

76/77 (4320) (2880) TAL (7200)

BRYDE'S

77/78 524

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76/77 (1000)

MINKE

77/78 400

76/77 (541)

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

77/78 BALEEN SEI 771 MINKE 5690

76/77 (1863) (8900)

SPERM (MALE) (FEMALE)

77/78 4538 1370 TOTAL 5908

76/77 (3894) (897) TOTAL (4791)

GRAND TOTAL 77/78 17,839 76/77 (28,050)

6. JAPAN AND USSR REQUESTED SPECIAL MEETING OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE IN NOVEMBER TO REVIEW IN MORE DETAIL THAN TSME HAD ALLOWED IN CANBERRA THE DATA AND RECOMMENDED QUOTAS ON NORTH PACIFIC SPERM WHALES (SEE TABLE ABOVE). COMMISSION AGREED TO CONVENE SPECIAL SESSION OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR THIS PURPOSE, WITH PROVISIO THAT COMMISSION ITSELF WOULD HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING TO CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDED CHANGE WHICH MIGHT RESULT, ONLY IF IWC CHAIRMAN SHOULD DETERMINE THAT SUCH RECOMMENDED CHANGE, IF ANY, WOULD JUSTIFY CONVENING THE COMMISSION.

7. THE COMMISSION ADOPTED A MORATORIUM ON KILLING OF BOWHEAD WHALES IN THE NORTH PACIFIC BY NATIVE ALASKANS AND OTHER ABORIGINAL PEOPLES, IN LINE WITH A SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THAT EFFECT, WHICH ESTIMATED THAT

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THE BOWHEAD POPULATION MAY HAVE DECLINED TO AS LITTLE AS 6 OF ITS ORIGINAL SIZE. THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ALSO NOTED AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF BOWHEAD WHALES KILLED BY ALASKAN NATIVES OVER LAST YEAR. THE U.S. AND U.S.S.R. ABSTAINED ON AN OTHERWISE UNANIMOUS COMMISSION VOTE IN FAVOR OF BOWHEAD MORATORIUM. COMMISSIONER ARON EXPRESSED U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

BUT DREW ATTENTION TO UNCERTAINTIES UNDER U.S. DOMESTIC LAW WHICH COULD HAMPER EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT PROMPTLY AND FULLY THE IWC'S DECISION IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE; HOWEVER, THE USG WOULD DO ITS BEST TO FULFILL THE AIM OF THE IWC DECISION. CONGRESSMAN MCCLOSKEY TOLD THE IWC HE WOULD DO WHATEVER HE COULD ON THE LEGISLATIVE SIDE TO FACILITATE USG IMPLEMENTATION.

8. IWC APPROVED RESOLUTIONS CALLING UPON MEMBER NATIONS TO PREVENT TRANSFER OF WHALING EQUIPMENT, EXPERTISE AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO AND, IMPORT OF WHALE PRODUCTS FROM, NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES.

9. IWC AGREED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH PLANS TO CONVENE CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES TO RENEGOTIATE 1946 WHALING CONVENTION. SECRETARIAT WILL CIRCULATE TO POTENTIALLY INTERESTED COUNTRIES IN NEAR FUTURE THE DRAFT REVISED CONVENTION TEXT DEVELOPED BY IWC WORKING GROUP. US (ARON) URGED THAT RENEGOTIATION CONFERENCE TAKE PLACE NOT LATER THAN LATE 1978/EARLY 1979 AND EXPRESSED READINESS IN PRINCIPLE TO HOST CONFERENCE IN US IN THAT TIME FRAME (PER REF C). AS FIRST STEP, COMMISSION APPROVED CANADIAN PROPOSAL TO HOLD PREPARATORY CONFERENCE IN SPRING OF 1978 TO PAVE WAY FOR SUBSEQUENT FULL-SCALE RENEGOTIATION; NON-IWC-MEMBER COUNTRIES WOULD BE INVITED TO PRBP CON IN ORDER TO ACQUAINT THEM WITH ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN CONVENTION RENEGOTIATION; UNCLASSIFIED

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PREP CON COULD ALSO DEAL WITH ESSENTIAL ORGANIZATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRELIMINARIES TO FULL CONFERENCE. DENMARK (LEMCH) OFFERED AD REFERENDUM TO HOST PREP CON IN COPENHAGEN. U.S. URGED THAT PREP CON BE OF LIMITED DURATION (NOT MORE THAN ONE WEEK) AND SCOPE AND THAT IT NOT DELAY THE CONVENING OF THE FULL CONFERENCE IN LATE 1978/EARLY 1979.

10. IWC APPROVED CHANGE IN RULES OF PROCEDURE WHEREBY MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL SEEK SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE'S REVIEW AND COMMENT ON SPECIFIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH PERMITS WHICH MEMBER COUNTRIES PROPOSE TO ISSUE TO THEIR NATIONALS TO TAKE WHALES. IWC ALSO APPROVED ARRANGEMENTS TO ADMIT PRESS TO ITS OPENING AND CLOSING PEENARY SESSIONS AND TO ADMIT QUALIFIED SCIENTISTS FROM OBSERVER COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO SESSIONS OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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